

# INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

# NORME INTERNATIONALE



**Semiconductor devices – Mechanical and climatic test methods –  
Part 37: Board level drop test method using an accelerometer**

**Dispositifs à semiconducteurs – Méthodes d'essais mécaniques et climatiques –  
Partie 37: Méthode d'essai de chute au niveau de la carte avec utilisation d'un  
accéléromètre**



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## INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

**SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICES –  
MECHANICAL AND CLIMATIC TEST METHODS –****Part 37: Board level drop test method using an accelerometer**

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This edition includes the following significant technical changes with respect to the previous edition:

- a) correction of a previous technical error concerning test conditions;
- b) updates to reflect improvements in technology.

The text of this International Standard is based on the following documents:

Draft	Report on voting
47/2651/CDV	47/2719/RVC

Full information on the voting for its approval can be found in the report on voting indicated in the above table.

The language used for the development of this International Standard is English.

This document was drafted in accordance with ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2, and developed in accordance with ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1 and ISO/IEC Directives, IEC Supplement, available at [www.iec.ch/members\\_experts/refdocs](http://www.iec.ch/members_experts/refdocs). The main document types developed by IEC are described in greater detail at [www.iec.ch/standardsdev/publications](http://www.iec.ch/standardsdev/publications).

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## INTRODUCTION

Handheld electronic products fit into the consumer and portable market segments. Included in handheld electronic products are cameras, calculators, cell phones, cordless phones, pagers, palm size PCs, personal computer memory card international association (PCMCIA) cards, smart cards, personal digital assistants (PDAs) and other electronic products that can be conveniently stored in a pocket and used while held in user's hand.

These handheld electronic products are more prone to being dropped during their useful service life because of their size and weight. This dropping event can not only cause mechanical failures in the housing of the device but also create electrical failures in the printed circuit board (PCB) assemblies mounted inside the housing due to transfer of energy through PCB supports. The electrical failures sometimes result from various failure modes such as cracking of the circuit board, track cracking on the board, cracking of solder interconnections between the components and the board, and component cracks. The primary driver of these failures is excessive flexing of the circuit board due to input acceleration to the board created from dropping the handheld electronic product. This flexing of the board causes relative motion between the board and the components mounted on it, resulting in component, interconnect or board failures. The failure is a function of the combination of the board design, construction, material, thickness and surface finish; interconnect material and standoff height and component size.

Correlation between test and field conditions is not yet fully established. Consequently, the test procedure is presently more appropriate for relative component performance than for use as a pass/fail criterion. Rather, results can be used to augment existing data or establish a baseline for potential investigative efforts in package/board technologies.

The comparability between different test sites, data acquisition methods, and board manufacturers has not been fully demonstrated by existing data. As a result, if the data are to be used for direct comparison of component performance, matching studies will first be performed to prove that the data are in fact comparable across different test sites and test conditions.

This method is not intended to substitute for full characterization testing, which could incorporate substantially larger sample sizes and increased number of drops. Due to limited sample size and number of drops specified here, it is possible that enough failure data are not generated in every case to perform full statistical analysis.